Trial of AIDS vaccine

*72. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trial of AIDS vaccine is being undertaken at the National AIDS Research Institute in Pune on human volunteers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the vaccine is expected to become available for public use?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Trial of AIDS vaccine has been launched on 7th February, 2005, at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune on human volunteers.

The Adeno Associated Viral vaccine (AAV) is a candidate vaccine, which is undergoing Phase-I trial.

Phase-I trial would establish the safety and the immunogenicity of the vaccine. If Phase-I trial is successful then vaccine has to undergo Phase-II and Phase-III trial and that may take seven to ten years before efficacy of this vaccine is known.

Cancellation of licences of Ayurveda drug manufacturers

*73. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Drug Control Administration of Gujarat has cancelled more than 500 licences of Ayurveda drug manufacturers;

(b) if so, its impact on ayurveda drug production, looking at the ever increasing demand;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ayurveda manufacturers are opposing some of the provisions of Schedule T of Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS) : (a) and (b) It is not a fact that the Drug Control Administration

of Gujarat State has cancelled more than 500 licences of Ayurvedic drug manufacturers. According to the information submitted by the State Government, there are 558 manufacturers of Ayurveda/Unani drugs out of which 133 have complied with the provisions of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as envisaged in Schedule-T, under Rule 157 of the Drugs & Cosmetics rules. The remaining manufacturers have been issued notices not to continue operation until the mandatory GMP provisions are complied with. No adverse effect will be felt in meeting the demand of Ayurveda drugs by issuing notices to the non-GMP complaint units. As such, there is no shortage of Ayurvedic drugs in Gujarat or elsewhere.

(c) and (d) Government have received representations from some manufacturers of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs to exempt them from GMP compliance or defer the GMP implementation. The representations were examined before being rejected.

Government have taken a number of steps to sensitize the State Drug Licensing Authorities and Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Drug manufacturers about GMP requirements. In addition to holding workshops in various places, a Centrally sponsored scheme for assisting drug manufacturing units to meet the GMP requirements is also being implemented. Under the scheme, 10% of the cost of GMP compliance subject to a maximum of Rs. 3.00 lakh is given to the drug manufacturing unit as subsidy.

Smuggling of sandalwood

*74. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents reported and cases registered in connection with the smuggling of sandalwood, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise together with the number of accused;

(b) whether sandalwood factories, illegally functioning in the Palakkad district of Kerala, were ordered to be closed during 2005;

(c) the action taken in the above cases; and

(d) the steps taken to protect sandalwood forests?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The number of incidents reported and cases registered in connection